

Boston,
27. Hollis St
Aug. 21/68

Dear friend Webb;

My daughter forwards to me from Leicester this morng, and I have just (3 p.m.) received, y^r pencil-note of 17th inst. from St. Mary's Hospital. I had, a few hours before, learned from Mrs Estlin, that you had been upon y^r feet & taken a few steps. The possibility of this is encouraging. I am very glad that you keep up your spirits & courage as well as you do. 'Tis indeed a sad reverse of your plans & hopes, and an equally unwelcome disappointment to us. I think now you must decide to spend the winter in this country, - see us in winter, - take our homes & firesides in a quiet way, & so recruit y^r strength, - & be able to start forth again next Spring, & complete what you must now leave undone.

I think your letters, for your own sake, ought to be brief & not numerous. One short

I think you are very right in determining that I should come to your aid, when you come to leave Detroit. It ought to be done, and I shall gladly do it. You will apprise me a little beforehand of your probable time of moving, and I shall endeavor not to keep you waiting much. I feel that you ought to have some one constantly at hand on your side. I am very glad that you found such kind attention & brotherly sympathy from your fellow passengers, Freyda, Norton, & others, - and equally disgusted that the Captain & other officers of the boat showed you nothing of the sort. You have their names, &c. I trust.

My good Mother recently had a fall, which she believes to be a good deal like yours in its effects, though yours has proved so much more serious. She was descending the stairs, - at my Sister's house, - supposed she had

reached the hall-floor, but had not, tho' on the last stair, - Stepping from which, as if it were the even floor, she fell very heavily. Nothing was fractured, but she was severely bruised internally, or jarred, - I Iamed all thro' the spine, so that she couldn't turn her head without pain. This happened on the

26th July - yr. accident was the 27th. She was confined to her bed about 2 weeks, - for more than a week past has been able to sit up most of the day, & to walk about a little, with some help. Her age, over 80, was of course against her; but we feel she ^{has} gotten over it wonderfully well. -

I feel sure your best way is to tax yr. strength & ability to move only a very little at present; - a very little may be beneficial; then I hope yr. recovery, when it really begins, will be rapid. Whenever I may go to you, - I shall probably make a rapid & continuous journey, - via. Suspension Bridge

and probably reach Detroit in 30 hours from leaving Leicester. You will please

I hope I haven't tired you. I am here only for a day or two. Consider me at Leicester, when you write.

I have seen Garrison & Mrs. Estlin today.

Tomorrow they go to Providence & Newport, R. I.

return here mid. of next week. & on Thursday

(27th) Mrs. E. is to go to see Mr. Pillsbury
at Concord N. H. From there she will

- at Leicester -

probably come again to us; & we hope,

make our house her head-quarters until

she goes to New York in October, where,

early in the month, she desires to attend

the session of the Unitarian Conference.

I hope it may be so that we shall have you

under our roof at same time; & and

Deborah too, either then or at any more

convenient time. My wife is now in the

vicinity, making a few days' visit among some friends. She will send her love & sympathy,

I know, - as we all do. We rejoice that you
have fallen amongst such good friends in Detroit.